Indian Council of Agricultural Research Institute spread all over the country as well as in collaboration with advanced countries/international research organisations.

Indigenously constant efforts are being made to evolve high yielding varieties of foodgrains and cash crops which are resistant to biotic and abiotic stresses by using biotechnological techniques. Evolved large number of highyielding varieties of foodgrains including wheat, hybrids of rice, maize and sorghum. Evolved high yielding hybrids and varieties of cash crops like cotton, sugracane, tobacco and jute.

In collaboration with advanced foreign countries the following projects are undertaken :

"Overcoming production constraints to sorghum in rainfed environment in India" has been taken up by NR-C Sorghum with Australian Centre for International Agricultural Research.

"Development & use of hybrid rice technology" has been taken up by Dte. of Rice Research with UNDP.

"Improvement of rainfed rice" has been taken up by CRRI with International Rice Research Institute, Phlippines.

"Maize & wheat improvement" have been taken up by Dte. of Maize Research and Dte. of Wheat Research respectively with International Centre for Wheat & Maize Improvement (CMMYT).

"Pasture land Improvement" has been taken up by IGFRI, Jhansi with United Kingdom.

(c) The question does not arise.

**Prawn Farming**

2128. SHRI SARADA TADIPARTHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention to the Government has been drawn to news item captioned "Stress on eco-Friendly Aqua Culture Practices". appearing in the *News Time* dated June 6, 1997 ; and

(b) if so, the present position of prawn farming in view of the Supreme Court orders?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir,

(b) The Supreme Court in its judgement dated 11.12.1996 has ordered that no shrimp ponds can be constructed or set up within the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) as defined in the Coastal Regulation Zone Notification, 1991 and that the shrimp culture ponds already set up in the Coastal Regulation Zone shall be demolished and removed before 31.3.1997. However, the Supreme Court's direction do not apply to the traditional and improved traditional types of technologies practised by the farming community in the coastal low lying areas. The Supreme Court also ordered that the Government shall constitute an authority under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and shall confer on the said authority all the powers necessary to protect the ecologically fragile coastal areas, seashore, water front and other coastal areas, and specially to deal with the situation created by the shrimp culture industries in the coastal States/UTs. The Supreme Court has further directed that shrimp culture ponds outside Coastal Regulation Zone area may be set up with the prior approval of such an Authority.

A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking a review of their judgement. The Matter is *sub-judice.*

Rajya Sabha has passed the Aquaculture Authority Bill, 1997 on the 20th March, 1997. The Bill seeks to, *inter alia*, regulate the activities connected with aquaculture in the coastal areas. When the Bill was to be taken up in the Lok Sabha, the fact that the Supreme Court has stayed operation of its judgement became known and, therefore, the bill was not moved in the Lok Sabha. Subsequently, the Court has extended the stay on the operation of its judgement till the 20th August, 1997.

**Cattle Breeding Schemes in Rajasthan**

2129. COL. SONA RAM CHOUDHARY : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether main livelihood of the drought prone Western Rajasthan people is cattle breeding;

(b) if so, the steps the Government are taking to safeguard the interests of farmers of these districts especially Barmer, Jaisalmer and Bikaner; and

(c) the details of the scheme formulated to enhance and promote cattle breeding in these desert and underdeveloped districts of Rajasthan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. S. VENUGOPALACHARI) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The steps taken consist of establishment of cattle breeding farms for supply of high quality of germ plasm and extension activities for supply of breeding inputs to the farmers.

(c) Government of Rajasthan is implementing the following schemes in the district of Barmer, Jaisalmer and Bikaner :

(i) Key village scheme (ii) ICDP (iii) Gopal Yojana and (iv) cattle breeding farms for Rathi and Tharparkar breeds. Besides these there are veterinary hospitals and dispensaries to provide health coverage and guidance to the farmers.